

# BARROW SERVICE AREA

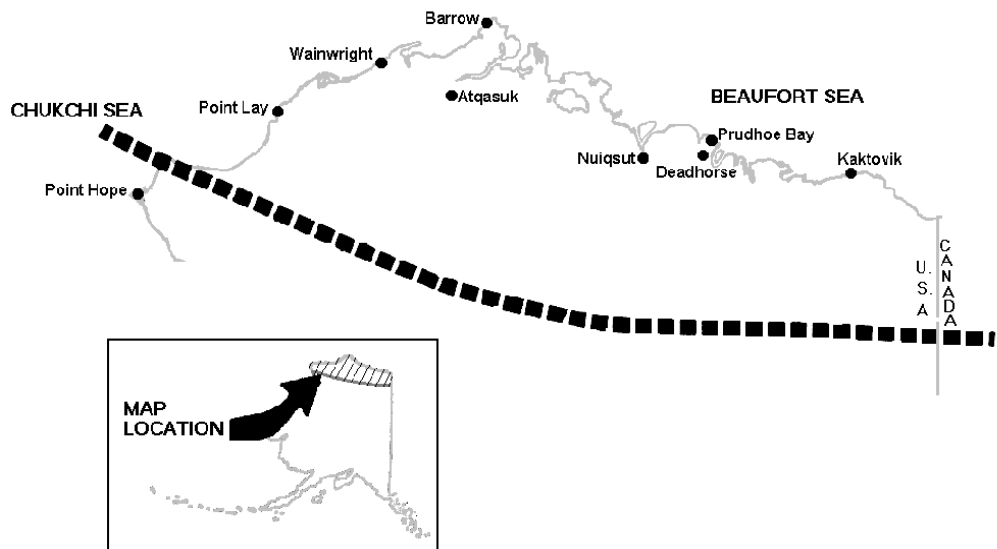
## OVERVIEW

### Alaska Native 2003 User Population.

<b>BARROW SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>4,410</b>
Arctic Slope Native Association	4,410

Users are defined as beneficiaries who used a facility that reports through the Indian Health Service data system at least once between 10/1/2000 and 9/30/2003.

**Environmental Factors.** The Barrow Service Area is the most northerly of the nine tribal service areas. Bordering on the north is the Arctic Ocean, on the west is the Chukchi Sea, and on the northeast is the Beaufort Sea. The total area of the service area is 95,366 square miles.



The entire land area is underlain by continuous permafrost extending from a few inches below the land surface to depths ranging from 600 to 2,000 feet (190-600 m). Ice-wedge polygons, a common permafrost surface feature, lie throughout the coastal plain section.

Temperature extremes are 70 degrees F° above zero to minus 55 (with windchill factors below -100 degrees). Averages are 45 for summer and -30 in the winter. For 56 days during the winter, the sun does not come above the horizon. For 82 days in the summer, the sun does not set.

## BARROW SERVICE AREA

Barrow is the largest city of the service area. It is 330 miles above the Arctic Circle, 1,955 miles north of Seattle, 722 miles northwest of Anchorage, and 502 miles northwest of Fairbanks. Point Barrow, the northernmost point of the United States on the Arctic Plain, is 10 miles northeast of Barrow. Located within the U.S. Naval Petroleum Reserve #4 (PET 4), Barrow is the seat of government for the North Slope Borough.

**Utilities.** Utilities in Barrow include electricity and natural gas. Water and sewage systems are available to an increasing number of homes. Electricity and water are available in all villages.

### Barrow Service Unit Number of Homes With and Without Complete Water and Sewer Service <sup>1</sup>

	# Homes With	# Homes Without	Total # of Homes <sup>2</sup>
BARROW SERVICE UNIT TOTAL	368	0	368
Arctic Slope Native Association	368	0	368

<sup>1</sup>Complete service means operable plumbed indoor water and sewer service. Information applies only to year-round primary homes, including individual homes, duplexes and apartment units. Data from FY 2002.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes homes covered by urban local government water and sewer service.

Source: Alaska Area Native Health Service Office of Environmental Health.

### Transportation.

Transportation throughout the service area is by airplane. There are daily flights between Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Barrow. By air, Barrow is 2 hours 45 minutes from Anchorage, 4 hours 30 minutes from Juneau and 5 hours 40 minutes from Seattle. The villages have daily or weekly flight service scheduled to Barrow, weather permitting. Charter aircraft also provide transportation to villages. Barrow has a bus system and private taxis, but there are no roads between any of the North Slope communities. For about six weeks during August and September, ships can usually reach the coastal villages. During the rest of the year, a solid icepack prevents sea travel. Finally, residents use the snowmachine to journey between villages during the long winter months.

**Housing.** A limited number of furnished Indian Health Service built apartments are available with one, two and three-bedroom units in Barrow. Visiting personnel can stay in transient quarters or several local hotels. Limited housing exists for non-tribal employees in Barrow.

**Education.** Schools in Barrow and the villages provide education from pre-kindergarten through senior high levels.

### Barrow Service Unit Education Status for the Population 25 Years and Over

	Males	Females
<b>White Alone population:</b>		
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	138	37
Bachelors degree or higher	224	236
<b>AI/AN* Alone population:</b>		
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	548	455
Bachelors degree or higher	28	52

AI/AN\*=American Indian/Alaska Native.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census Summary File 3

**Natural Resources.** Although isolated by distance and climate from the rest of the state of Alaska, Barrow has achieved prominence as the regional center for business, communications, government and transportation for the North Slope area. The economy of this region has been heavily dependent on the oil industry, which is now in decline.

**Employment.** The employment table compares the white population and the American Indian/ Alaska Native population from the 2000 Census.

**Tribes.**

**North Slope Borough Region**

Native Village of Atkasuk – P.O. Box 108,  
Atkasuk, AK 99791

Native Village of Barrow - P.O. Box 1139,  
Barrow, AK 99723

Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope - P.O.  
Box 934, Barrow, AK 99723

Native Village of Kaktovik - P.O. Box 75,  
Kaktovik, AK 99747

Nuiqsut Tribal Council – P.O. Box 109, Nuiqsut, AK 99789

Point Lay Tribal Council - P.O. Box 109, Point Lay, AK 99759

Wainwright Traditional Council - P.O. Box 143, Wainwright, AK 99782

**Barrow Service Unit  
Employment Status  
for the Population 16 years and Over**

	Male	Female
<b><u>White Alone population:</u></b>		
In labor force	563	391
Employed	551	378
Unemployed	12	13
<b><u>AI/AN* Alone population:</u></b>		
In labor force	1,116	942
Employed	845	764
Unemployed	271	178

AI/AN\*=American Indian/Alaska Native  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2000 Census Summary File 3

## DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

The Barrow Service Area provides medical, eye care and dental care to Alaska Natives residing in Barrow and five villages. Anaktuvuk Pass, which is geographically located in the North Slope Borough, receives medical care from Tanana Chiefs Conference. Point Hope, which is geographically located in the North Slope Borough, receives medical care from Maniilaq.

In October 1990, under a P.L. 93-638, Title I contract, the Barrow Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC) assumed the management of the following departments: housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, supply, dietary, and security.

The Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) assumed management of all hospital-based clinical programs through a P.L. 93-638 Title V funding agreement in March 1996. The Community Health Aide Program and the village clinics are managed by the North Slope Borough through a general procurement contract with the Indian Health Service.

**Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital**, 1296 Agvik Street, Barrow, Alaska 99723

Managed by the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA), the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital and attached Vera Oleumaun Outpatient Clinic serve as health delivery headquarters to the region and to itinerant professional medical teams. The hospital is a 14-bed general medical facility accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. It is a single-story woodframe structure, erected on wood pilings in 1964, and is 21,405 square feet in size.

ASNA operates the outpatient clinic, emergency room, pharmacy, laboratory, audiology, physical therapy, radiology, prenatal, general inpatient, labor and delivery. Personnel from the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) in Anchorage provide specialty clinics. Dental, mental health and social services are provided by ASNA in the attached Greist Family Services Building.

### NON-TRIBAL HEALTH AGENCIES AND FACILITIES AND TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO SERVICE POPULATION

**Community Health Aides/Practitioners.** The North Slope Borough Health and Social Services Agency provides the community health aide/practitioner services in the following village clinics:

Kaktovik  
Atqasuk

Point Lay  
Nuiqsut

Wainwright

Besides CHA/P, North Slope Borough services include public health nursing, public assistance, alcohol and drug abuse, women in crisis, parent-infant program, infant learning program, senior citizens program, children's receiving home, the Women Infant and Children (WIC), alternate programs for youth, environmental health and community health education and medical development.

The North Slope Borough Department of Health and Social Services operates the telehealth network using desktop video telephones to link remote village clinics with the Samuel Simmonds Hospital, the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage and the Maniilaq Health Center in Kotzebue.

State-funded social workers and one juvenile probation officer live in Barrow and travel to all communities of the North Slope Borough (except for Point Hope) for village services.

### HEALTH SERVICES AND FACILITIES PLANNING ISSUES

The Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital is in need of replacement. The inpatient area of the hospital cannot accommodate the present inpatient workload. Currently, there is only one small room designated as an acute care pediatric room. At times three or more children are admitted that require cribs, and an adult patient room must be rearranged to provide space. One larger room or pediatric ward designed to meet the special needs of children is required. The inpatient rooms presently do not provide the safest environment for suicidal and psychiatric patients. A specially-designed room specifically set up to provide a safe environment would assist with the proper care of such patients.

A new hospital has been approved for funding by the Indian Health Service and is in the design and site preparation stages of the IHS health facility construction priority system.

## BARROW SERVICE AREA

A major concern not addressed in the design of the new hospital is assisted living for the elderly in Barrow. The North Slope Borough built an independent elderly residential center, but it cannot provide care for elders that need skilled nursing services or that are unable to live independently. The elders of the North Slope Borough requiring special care are being placed in facilities in Fairbanks or Anchorage. This practice of sending the elderly requiring special care out of Barrow creates a situation in which elders are isolated from their family members, their native language and traditional foods. A newly constructed wing to the current North Slope Borough Senior Residential Center is a major priority so that the elders can live their last days with respect in their own homeland.

### HEALTH STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVES LIVING IN THE BARROW SERVICE AREA

#### Mortality.

The leading causes of mortality for the Barrow Service Area are malignant neoplasms, unintentional injuries and heart disease.

**Barrow Service Area**  
Alaska Native Deaths  
Three-Year Average Crude Death Rates per 100,000 Population

Leading Causes of Death		1994-1996 /4	1995-1997 /4	1996-1998 /4
1)	Malignant Neoplasms /1	142.2	123	152.8
	Lung Cancer	58.6	41	40.2
2)	Unintentional Injuries (Accidents) /2	100.4	139.4	128.7
	Water Transport/Drowning	33.5	16.4	n/a
	Motor Vehicles	16.7	16.4	n/a
3)	Heart Disease	92	98.4	112.6
4)	Suicide	25.1	49.2	72.4
5)	Alcohol Related /3	25.1	32.8	56.3

1/ Lung Cancer is included in Malignant Neoplasms.

2/ Does not include injuries purposefully inflicted or injuries undetermined whether purposefully or accidentally inflicted. Motor Vehicle and Water Transport/Drowning are also counted in the total Accidents; it does not include alcohol related deaths.

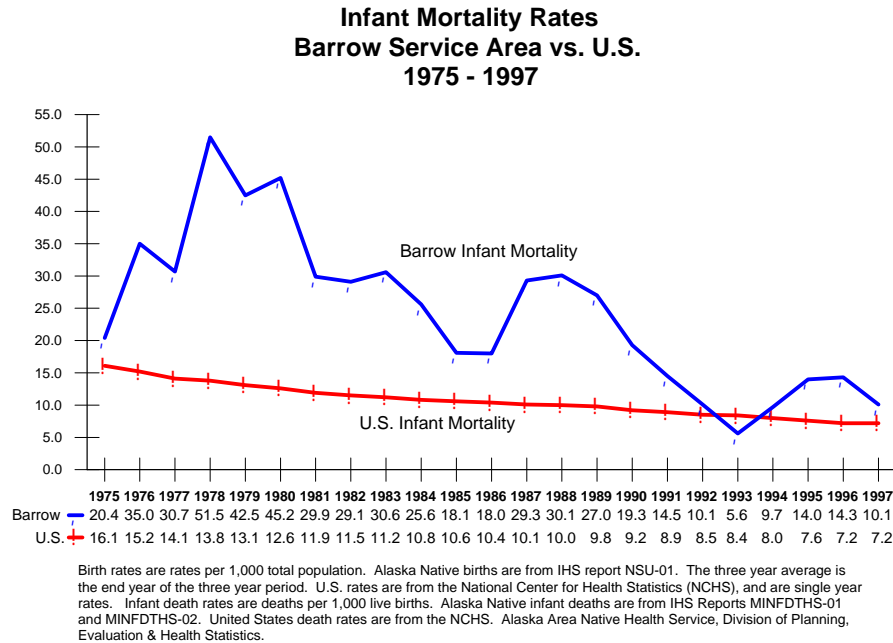
3/ Alcohol Related deaths include alcoholic psychoses, alcohol dependence syndrome, alcohol abuse, alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis, alcoholic polyneuropathy, alcoholic cardiomyopathy, alcoholic gastritis, excessive blood level of alcohol, and accidental poisoning by alcoholic beverages and ethyl alcohol.

4/ Causes not included when deaths average less than one per year in 1995-97.

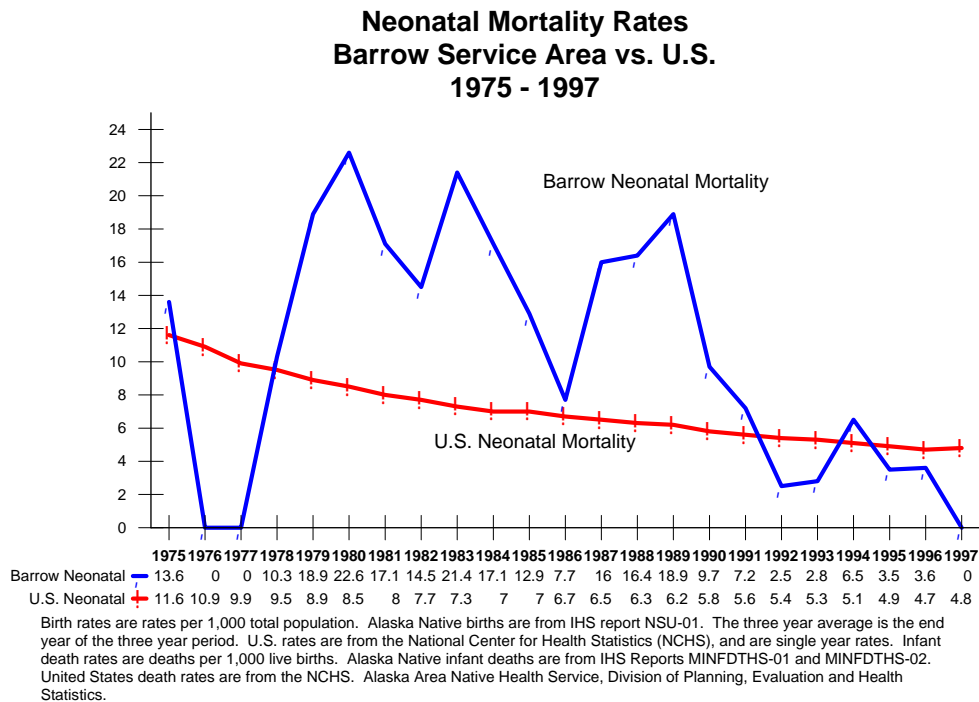
Alaska Area Native Health Service, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Health Statistics.

## Infant Mortality.

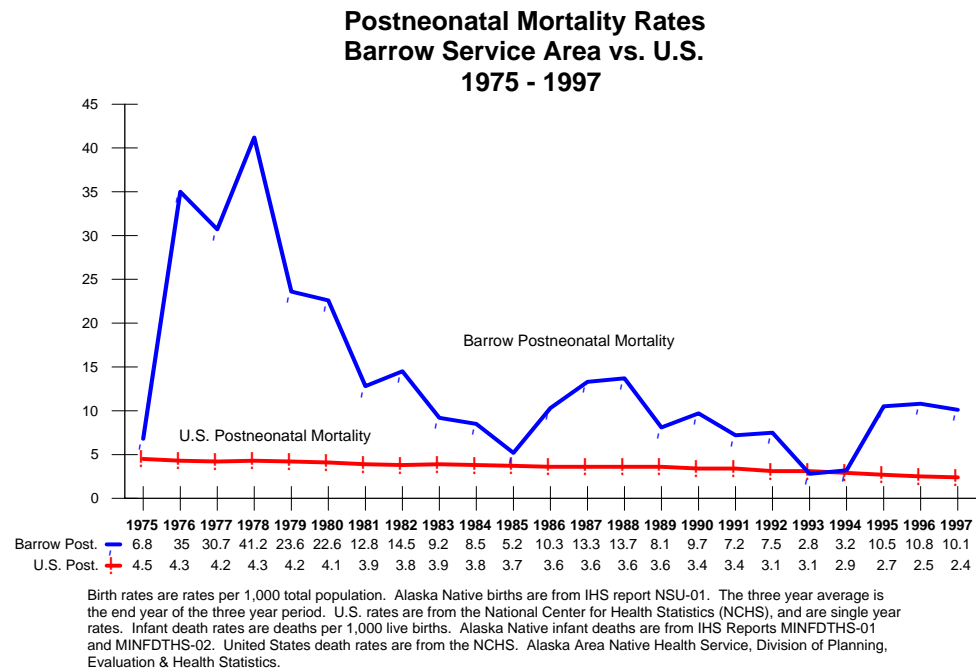
The following graph compares the Barrow Service Area infant mortality rate to that of the U.S. general population.



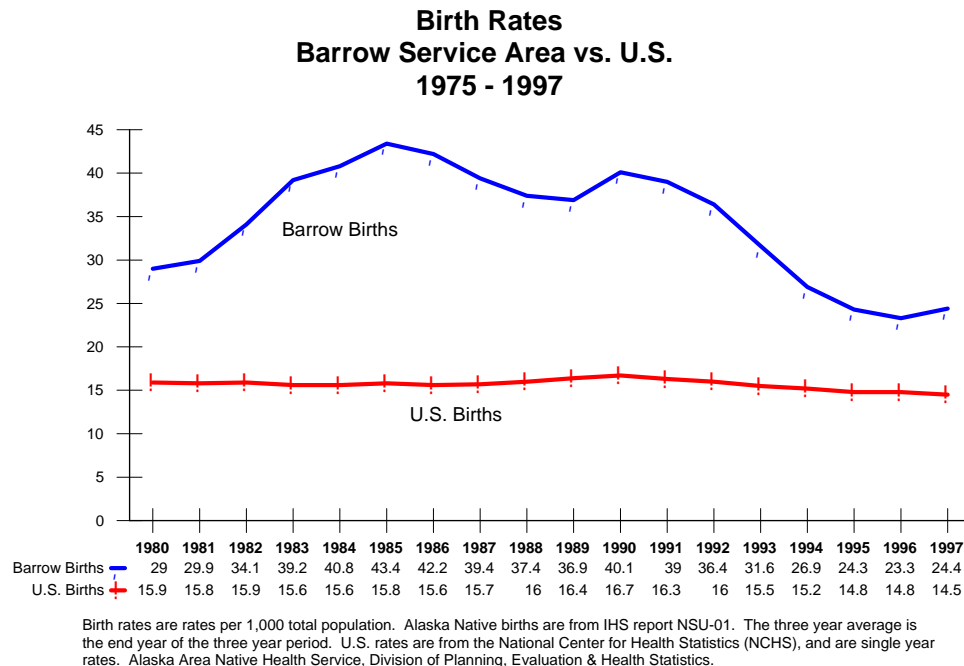
**Neonatal Mortality.** The following graph compares the Barrow Service Area and U.S. neonatal mortality rates. The neonatal period is defined as less than 28 days of age.



**Postneonatal Mortality.** The following graph compares the Barrow Service Area postneonatal mortality rates and the U.S. rates. The postneonatal period is defined as 28 to 365 days of age.

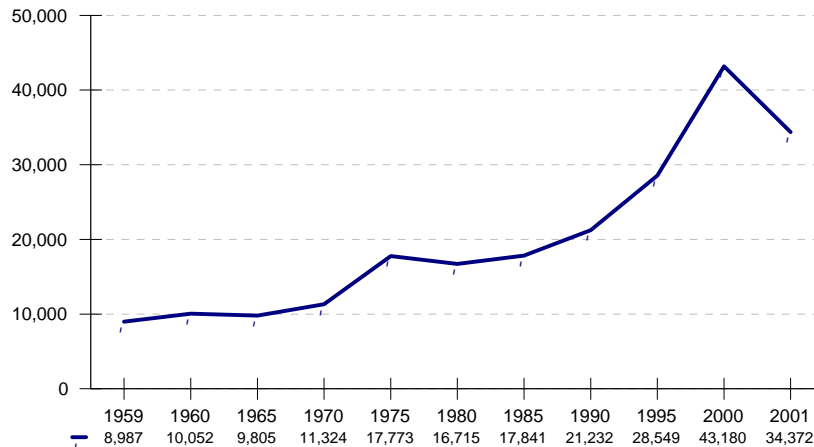


**Births.** Barrow birth rates are compared to those of the U.S. general population.



## OUTPATIENT WORKLOAD/DIAGNOSES

**Barrow Service Area  
Outpatient Workload: FY 1959 - FY 2001**



Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1A.

**Barrow Service Area  
Leading Causes of Outpatient Visits: FY 2001 - 2002**

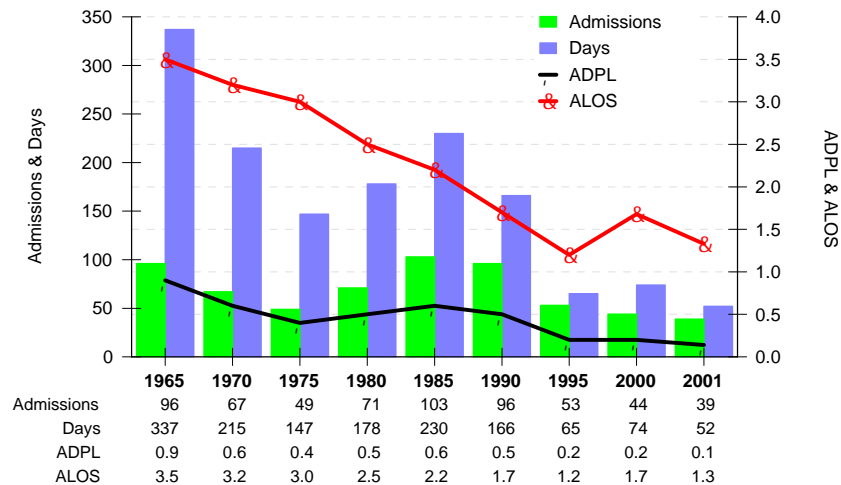
All Age Groups	FY 2001	FY 2002
Upper Respiratory Problems	2,627	2,154
Accidents & Injuries	1,766	1,497
Hospital Med/Surgical Follow-up	1,041	1,107
Otitis Media	1,270	1,049
Bone & Joint Disorders	989	732
Tests Only	1,984	661
Strep Throat	340	507
Hypertension	519	489
Arthritis	312	428
Infected Skin & Abrasions	409	421
Precordial & Abdominal Pain	527	410
Physical Examinations	524	399

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 1C.



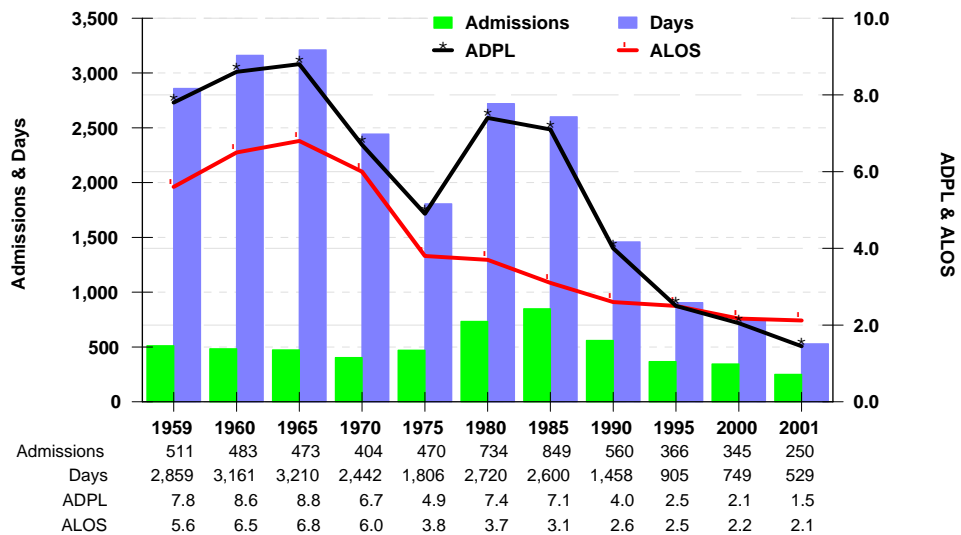
## INPATIENT WORKLOAD

### Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (Barrow) Newborn Inpatient Workload: FY 1965 - FY 2001



ADPL = Average Daily Patient Load; ALOS = Average Length of Stay.  
Source: HSA-202 Monthly Report of Inpatient Services

### Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (Barrow) Inpatient Workload Excluding Newborns: FY 1959 - FY 2001



ADPL=Average Daily Patient Load; ALOS=Average Length of Stay  
SOURCE: HSA-202 Monthly Report of Inpatient Services

## DISCHARGE DIAGNOSES

### Barrow Service Area Leading Causes of Inpatient Discharges: FY 2001 - FY 2002

	FY 2001	FY 2002
Deliveries (Childbirth)	37	26
Pneumonia	25	15
Urinary Tract Diseases	6	12
Infected Skin & Abrasions	11	12
Bronchitis, Emphysema	13	11
Complications of Pregnancy	9	9
Accidents & Injuries	19	9
Asthma	4	8
Abdominal Pain	3	6
Heart Disease	14	5

Source: Indian Health Service Inpatient/Outpatient Reporting System in Albuquerque, APC Report 2C.